



SIERRA CLUB

Connecticut Chapter
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Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Wood, Senator Anwar, Representative Comey, Senator Hwang, Representative Pavalock-D'Amato and members of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee,

On behalf of the Sierra Club and our more than 40,000 members and supporters in Connecticut, thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 14, An Act Concerning Home Energy Affordability for Home Buyers.

The Sierra Club is committed to defending everyone's right to a healthy world by tackling the serious challenges of a warming climate and unprecedented levels of pollution. Though Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act requires a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions below 2001 levels by 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 in alignment with climate science, DEEP's latest greenhouse gas inventory shows that we are not on track to meet these goals.

That's why Connecticut must now focus on critically needed strategies to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the most polluting sources - buildings, transportation and electricity generation. We must do much, much more than has been done to date, or that is proposed thus far this session.

Senate Bill 14 An Act Concerning Home Energy Affordability for Home Buyers

Sierra Club Connecticut strongly supports Senate Bill 14 which will provide home buyers with data on the energy consumption of a property so that they can make an informed decision before purchasing. This policy will help home buyers understand the full cost of occupying a property, and will incentivize energy efficiency in buildings in Connecticut. It is a policy that will help address the intersectional issues of climate, energy affordability and equity.

Energy affordability is a significant issue in Connecticut; with low-income households, communities of color, renters and older adults experiencing disproportionately higher energy burdens than the average household in our state. Energy labeling and disclosure can provide all prospective buyers with useful information on energy costs, but is especially important to help protect against energy burden for low to moderate income households.

Labeling will also result in more efficient buildings as building owners seek to improve the efficiency of their buildings. Improving efficiency will reduce energy use; a reduction in energy use will reduce climate-destroying greenhouse gas emissions.

Sierra Club urges your support for this bill.

Thank you for consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,
Samantha Dynowski, State Director
Sierra Club Connecticut

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